

# **Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**

## ***August Meeting Minutes***

### **Department of Economic and Community Development**

August 22, 2017  
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM  
505 Hudson Street  
Hartford, Connecticut

#### **Attendance**

- Board Members Present: John Harrity, John Zoldy, Don Balducci, Colin Cooper, Todd Pihl, Kelli Vallieres, Shane Eddy and Catherine Smith,
- Board Members via phone: Chris DiPentima
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders Present: Mackey Dykes, Sue Palisano, Bernice Zampano, Tom Maloney, Jill Adams, Craig Connolly, Josh Silverman, Eric Brown and Will Thomas
- DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios and Toni Karnes

#### **Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine H. Smith at 9:06 am.  
Commissioner Smith welcomed the board to the meeting.

#### **State Budget Update**

Commissioner Smith provided the group with an update on the state of the budget. She noted that the impasse may possibly be over in September but that it was unknown when a resolution would be achieved.

#### **New England Aerospace and Defense Cluster**

Commissioner Smith Catherine summarized the New England Cluster background of the effort and update on the purpose of the group going forward to create a NE Aerospace & Defense Cluster. She noted that it was avital component of the region's economic success the region receives \$27 billion annually in DOD contracts which supports 4,600 local companies. Commissioner Smith went on to note the regional goals and its following priorities:

1. To have a single voice representing the New England states' defense industry in Washington, D.C.;
2. To ensure a connected New England regional defense supply chain to garner business development opportunities;
3. To ensure the region's industry meets Cybersecurity certification requirements;
4. To develop its workforce in order to quickly "skill-up" new hires and retrain current workers.

Shane Eddy asked if this effort was part of and/or aligned with the Department of Defense Health of the Defense Supply Chain Survey/Report. Commissioner Smith asked that staff follow-up and respond. After some discussion, the group agreed that cyber security would be an early focus. Colin Cooper noted that providing awareness of the issues involved would be an important aspect.

## **Strategy Session**

Commissioner Smith provided an overview of the MIF Strategy Session held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. She noted that one of the top priorities was to maximize the Supply chain drive towards digitization and automation via the “smart factory” in order to link to OEM requirements. She also advised that the Board had identified “Second Tier Priorities, which included developing regional initiatives/ clusters (i.e. N.E cluster in aerospace) and working in foreign markets (Exports). After some discussion, Commissioner Smith reviewed the final funding grid to be used to budget the use of future MIF funds.

## **High Rate Additive Manufacturing Update**

Tom Maloney from CCAT provided an update on the High Rate Additive Manufacturing (HRAM) program. He stated that HRAM is one of three advanced manufacturing technologies being established in CT, (1) Composites, (2) Hybrid, and (3) HRAM). Mr. Maloney also provided the Board with an implementation timeline which would end September 30, 2018. Subsequent discussion ensued regarding the length of the timeline and machinery ownership. After which, John Harrity noted that making workers work faster may mean less workers and he wanted to be on the record that the Board should look at the program in a way to not only increase efficiency but also increase employment.

## **MIF Website Launch**

Jill Adams of Adams & Knight provided an update on the website launch. She noted that Phase 1 was launched in April. She stated that the next steps were to launch Phase 2. She invited the Board to go to the site and she also provided a preview of how to navigate the website. After some discussion Commissioner Smith asked when the launch would take place. Ms. Adams noted it would occur that week. The group agreed that she should proceed to go live.

## **Energy on the Line – Lessons Learned**

Mackey Dykes of the Connecticut Green Bank Mackey provided a background on the program since Shane Eddy and Kelli Vallieres are new to the board. In addition, he reviewed the program components and explained the delay in reaching original goal of 20 projects in a year. He noted the development period is a lot longer than expected. In comparison, the CPACE development period is a year and Energy on the Line with a focus on manufacturing is a lot longer than that. Even though there is a few number of EOL projects; the program has offered and leverage other opportunities to address energy costs resulting in savings. Overall, he stated, the program works. However, there were some additional lessons learned:

1. It takes a lot longer than expected
2. The financing structure is too complicated and confusing
3. Recommend simpler tiered funding
4. Technical Assistance to the client is a key component of the program
- 5.

After some discussion, Green Bank was asked to return to the Board with recommendations on program changes and funding structure. In addition, the suggestion was made that Green Bank add a video of one of its companies to the website.

## **Other Business**

Commissioner Smith advised that the CBIA Event to be held on November 17, 2017 would be open to the MIF Board.

After some discussion, Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. John Harrity moved the motion. Shane Eddy seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:35.